



## State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT  
*Governor*

GREG BELL  
*Lieutenant Governor*

## Department of Human Services

PALMER De PAULIS  
*Executive Director*

Division of Services for People with Disabilities

ALAN K. ORMSBY, J.D.  
*Director*

## M E M O

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From: Alan K. Ormsby   
Director

Date: March 16, 2011

RE: 2011 Legislative Wrap-Up

At the end of the 2011 legislative session, there is good news, bad news and a few big surprises. First the good news: (1) all funding for services (including support coordination, motor transportation, and respite) came back and was supported by our legislators; (2) we received the two building blocks (\$1.7 million for provider rates and \$1.2 million for mandatory additional needs) that the Governor recommended; and (3) at the last minute, most of the Division's Medicaid match adjustment was funded. All told, funding for services fared very well. There was a great, united effort by providers, support coordinators, advocates and the Division to ensure that services were protected.

The bad news? The Division's funding for staff was cut by 10% in both the state office and field operations. Our state general fund was cut 1% on the assumption that there is that much fraud, waste and abuse in the system. We received a \$43,000 cut on the assumption that we could collect rent from several state-owned (DFCM) group homes.

These cuts are on top of the last two year's cuts. For the 10% cuts to staff, we will have to take another careful look at our staffing. Like prior years, we will look first to retirement and attrition. Hopefully we can get authorization to do another retirement incentive. But reduction in work force (RIF) may be on the horizon.

We will do everything possible to avoid or minimize RIFs, and we have until July 1 before the cuts have to be implemented. Staffing cuts will negatively impact the services we are able to give to providers, support coordinators and other stakeholders. For the 1% cut, we will be discussing the best way to address this cut with our contract providers, including support coordinators. We will ask DFCM if there is anything they can do to help us with the \$43,000 cut. Again, we will try our best to minimize negative impacts to providers, support coordinators and other stakeholders. As we develop implementation plans for these cuts, we will seek input from employees and all of our partners to implement the cuts in the best way possible.

Our Mission is to Promote Opportunities and Provide Supports for Persons with Disabilities to Lead Self-Determined Lives.

So how about the big surprises? First, legislators allocated about \$1,050,000 for the waiting list! This is very welcome news; it means we will be able to assess people for services again and begin (on July 1) to provide a small number of new people with much-needed services. After more than two years of only serving emergencies, children in state custody and court-ordered cases, it will be great to have some new funding. Sadly, we won't be able to provide services to everyone who has needs. We will do our best to stretch this new funding as far as possible. Second, we received \$250,000 in new, on-going funding for supported employment (thanks to Rep. Menlove). This will be a huge benefit to people on the waiting list who only need supported employment. We will partner with the Office of Rehabilitation to maximize these dollars. Finally, the USDC received \$500,000 in new, on-going funding to replace cuts from last year.

I want to thank the legislature for protecting services and for providing new funding for the waiting list. It will be difficult to implement the staffing cuts and still be able to provide new services, but I know we will find a way.

I also want to thank everyone who worked so hard during the session to highlight the needs of people with disabilities! We were able to present a united, positive voice to the legislature, and I think it made a huge difference.

Finally, my heart-felt thanks to all DSPD employees. You make a world of difference! Thanks to your hard work and dedication, I can fight for funding without reservation. You work with your whole heart and soul, and it is noticed and appreciated. Thanks again!